

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04071 211748Z

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SUBJ: AMBASSADOR STOESSEL INTERVIEW PRINTED

1. PRAVDA AND OTHER CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS PLUS WEEKLY NEWS-MAGAZINE NOVOYE VREMYA ON MAR 21 PRINTED SEPARATE BUT ESSENTIALLY EQUAL INTERVIEWS WITH AMBASSADOR STOESSEL BASED ON MAR 19 INTERVIEW IN EMBASSY, ARRANGED AT REQUEST OF TASS-NOVOYE VREMYA.

2. EMBASSY CALLS ATTENTION TO TASS ENGLISH VERSION (TEXT BELOW), RELEASED MARCH 20, AND ESSENTIALLY SAME AS TASS RUSSIAN CARRIED IN CENTRAL PRESS AND REPORTEDLY SENT THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. NOVOYE VREMYA CARRIED FULL TEXT.

3. FYI, MOSCOW NEWS INTERVIEWED AMBASSADOR MAR 20 FOR MAR 30 EDITION. EMBASSY WILL CABLE TEXT.

4. TEXT OF TASS ENGLISH INTERVIEW FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04071 211748Z

WALTER STOESSEL, THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW, SEES GOOD

PROSPECTS FOR SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

IN AN INTERVIEW TO TASS CORRESPONDENT BORIS CHEKHONIN AND THE "NEW TIMES" CORRESPONDENT MIKHAIL CHERNOUSOV, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE INTENDS AT HIS NEW POST TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DEVELOP SUCH PEACEFUL AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE USSR UNDER WHICH POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES MAY BE RESOLVED FROM POSITIONS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT.

HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED HIS APPOINTMENT TO MOSCOW AS A COMPLEX, MUCH-NEEDED, RESPONSIBLE AND THEREFORE INTERESTING JOB. THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN JOINT EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE USA. THEREFORE WE CAN AND MUST LEARN TO CONDUCT COMPETITION BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES ALONG PEACEFUL AND FRIENDLY LINES EVEN IF WE HOLD DIFFERENT VIEWS, HE SAID.

SPEAKING OF HIS MEETING WITH LEONID BREZHNEV WALTER STOESSEL SAID HE WAS GLAD TO MEET GENERAL SECRETARY LEONID BREZHNEV SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW. OUR TALK, HE SAID, WAS AN INTERESTING AND A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE ONE. WE DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND ALSO TOUCHED UPON CERTAIN INTER-

NATIONAL ISSUES. "I THINK THAT FOR ME PERSONALLY THIS WAS A VERY GOOD BEGINNING OF MY WORK IN MOSCOW."

AMBASSADOR STOESSEL WHO WORKED AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW IN THE LATE FORTIES AND IN THE MID-SIXTIES, SAID THAT A GREAT DEAL HAS CHANGED IN MOSCOW AND CHANGED FOR THE BETTER SINCE THE LAST TIME HE WAS HERE. HE SAID THAT THE LAST FIVE YEARS WERE PERHAPS THE MOST PRODUCTIVE OF THE FORTY YEARS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

WALTER STOESSEL SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE HOLDING NOW VERY IMPORTANT TALKS CONCERNING THE VERY ESSENCE OF THEIR RELATIONS, SUCH AS THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, AND ARE SCORING CERTAIN SUCCESSES DESPITE DIFFICULTIES. WALTER STOESSEL NOTED THAT IN HIS VIEW THE MAIN CHANGE NOW IS THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE CONDUCTING BUSINESS-
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 04071 211748Z

LIKE AND FRUITFUL TALKS IN MANY DIVERSE FIELDS AND THE FACT THAT THE VOLUME OF BUSINESS AND CULTURAL LINKS BETWEEN THE USSR HAS CONSIDERABLY INCREASED. HE NOTED THAT PRACTICAL AGREEMENTS ON JOINT COOPERATION WITH THE FRAMEWORK OF WHICH ACTIVE WORK IS BEING DONE EPITOMIZE SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS TODAY.

THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT PROSPECTS FOR SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS ARE GOOD, FOR EXAMPLE, IN TRADE AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL

COOPERATION. I BELIEVE THAT SUCH INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AS THE
USA AND THE USSR UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE COMMON INTERESTS WHICH CALL
FOR COOPERATION. W. STOESSEL ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE
CULTURAL EXCHANGES DEVELOPING NOW WILL ENABLE THE AMERICANS
AND RUSSIANS TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER, TRAVEL MORE AND
TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH EACH OTHER BETTER. ALL THIS WILL
CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS OUR COMMON GOAL -- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
LASTING PEACE, HE SAID.
STOESSEL

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